

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4527

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONCUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PERCY, CHARLES H.)

O

SUBJECT: CODEL PERCY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MACHEL MET WITH SENATOR AND MRS. PERCY, DR. POOLE AND AMBASSADOR FOR HOUR ON APRIL 20. MEETING AFFORDED SENATOR AN OPPORTUNITY MAKE EFFECTIVE CASE FOR U.S. COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND ELECITED SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS FROM MACHEL ON SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. INsofar AS AMBASSADOR WAS CONCERNED, MOST SIGNIFICANT OF MACHEL'S COMMENTS WAS HIS VIELED ADMONITION TO U.S. TO LET ZIMBABWEANS DETERMINE FOR THEMSELVES THEIR ONW LEADERSHIP: U.S. SHOULD NOT SEEK TO PROMOTE THE FORTUNES OF ONE GROUP OR ONE LEADER OVER ANOTHER. CODEL, WHICH TOOK NOTES, WILL BE SUBITTING DETAILED REPORT SEPTTEL. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING.

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1. OWING TO TRAVEL COMPLICATIONS, CODEL PARTY WAS NOT ABLE

ARRIVE IN MAPUTO IN TIME TO KEEP ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT WAS BUSY WITH ARRANGEMENTS FRO UPCOMING STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA, MACHEL AGREED RECEIVE CODEL AND AMBASSADOR 0800 HOURS APRIL 20, ONLY A COUPLE OF OURS BEFORE SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF KAUNDA. PRESENT AT MEETING WERE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ARMANDO PANGUENE, WHO INTERPRETED, AND VICE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT LUIS BERNARDO HONWANDA.

2. THE PRESIDENT WARMED QUICKLY TO THE SENATOR AND WAS RELAXED THROUGHOUT, GIVING NO INDICATION THAT HE MIGHT BE IMPATIENT TO GET MEETING OVER WITH. ON CONTRARY, HE TOOK CARE TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE POINTS HE WANTED TO MAKE WERE GETTING ACROSS.

3. RHODESIA. MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION, AND ONE WHICH ELICITED THE MOST FEELING FROM THE PRESIDENT, WAS RHODESIA. SENATOR LED INTO SUBJECT BY STATING THAT HE WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO MAJORITY RULE AND THAT HE KNEW PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN SENATE WERE TOO. SENATOR SAID THAT AFTER HE RETURNED U.S. HE WOULD MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO REPEAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT AS WELL AS TRY TO MARSHAL SUPPORT IN THE CONGRESS FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE.

4. MACHEL WENT TO GREAT LENGTH TO MAKE POINT THAT STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA IS NOT A RACIST STRUGGLE, OF BLACK AGAINST WHITE, BUT A TRULY NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY. THE STRUGGLE IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE ILLEGAL REGIME OF IAN SMITH AND HIS MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES, NOT AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN OR FARMERS. WHEN THE SENATOR ASKED MACHEL WHAT HE WOULD WANT THE SENATOR TO TELL VORSTER, MACHEL URGED THE SENATOR TO CONVEY THIS FACT TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

5. MACHEL PAUSED THOUGHTFULLY WHEN ASKED BY SENATOR AND AMBASSADOR WHAT, IN ADDITION TO REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT AND U.S. OFFSET HELP OT MOZAMBIQUE, HE THOUGHT USG AS A BIG POWER MIGHT APPROPRIATELY DO TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESPA. MACHEL SEEMED MORE INTEREESTED IN WHAT WE SHOULD NOT DO THAN WHAT WE SHOULD DO. WHILE HE DID NOT COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY SO, HE CLEARLY DOES NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WANT USG TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL POLITICS OF ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, I.E. HE DOES NOT WANT USG TO TRY TO PROMOTE THE FORTUNES OF ONE GROUP OR LEADER OVER ANOTHER. HE SAID THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MOVEMENT SHOLD BE LEFT TO THE ZIMBABWEANS TO WORK OUT. IF IT WERE, MACHEL WAS CERTAIN THAT LEADERS WOULD EMERGE FROM THOSE ENGAGED IN THE ARMED STRUGGLE, AS HE SAID WAS THE CASE WITH FRELIMO.

6 ANGOLA. ACCORDING MACHEL, MPLA IS THE ONLY TRULY NATIONALIST POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA. FNLA IS TRIBLA, REGIONAL AND RACIST, WITH HEADQUARTERS OUTSIDE OF ANGOLA, WHEREAS UNITA IS THE LATE CREATION OF PORTUGUESE WHO ARE SEEKING PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS THROUGH UNITA. DESPITE PREFERENCE FOR MPLA, MACHEL CLAIMS GPRM WORKED FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION UP TO TIME OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

7 WITH SMILE ON HIS FACE, MACHEL SWID THAT THANKS TO THE INTERVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, QFIGHTING HAS NOW STOPPED IN ANGOLA AND THE MPLA IS RECOGNIZED BY ALL OF AFRICA. HAD SOUTH AFRICA NOT INTERVENED, MACHEL SAID THE THREE GROUPS WOULD STILL BE FIGHTING AND NO MORE THAN PERHAPS 15 AFRICAN STATES WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED MPLAM.

8 US-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS. MACHEL TOUCHED ONLY BRIEFLY ON U.S. POLICIEF. HE SAID U.S. HAS WAY OF BACKING LOSERS AND BEING ON WRONG SIDE, E.G . IN VIET NAM, CAMBODIA, ANGOLA, AS WELL AS ON SIDE OF PROTUGAL AGAINST FRELIMO. BUT MACHEL SAID HE DID NOT WISH DWELL ON PAST; HE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICIES.

9. MACHEL REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR APRIL 19, I.E., THAT HE BLIEVES AMERICANS DO WISH SEE THIS PART OF AFRICA TO BE FREE. HOWEVER, U.S. IS A BIG AND DIVERSSE COUNTRY AND WHILE THERE ARE MANY IN U.S., SUCH AS THE SENATOR, WHO ARE COMMITTED TO MAJORITY RULE, HE KNOWS THERE ARE GROUPS IN THE U.S.. WHO ARE NOT.

10 SOVIET UNION, CUBA AND CHINA. DISCUSSIONHDID NOT GET AROUND TO SUBJECT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, OR TO MACHEL'S ATTITUDE TO CUBAN AND SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIAN STRUGGLE. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN AN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO HIS RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES, MACHEL DID SAY THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAD WON OVER PORTUGAL WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION, THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS BEHOLDEN TO NO ONE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ITS AFFAIRS INDEPENDENT OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCE.

11. WOMEN'S RIGHTS. MACHEL WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH SENATOR'S PRAISE FOR HIS EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF WOMEN, SENATOR HAD SAID THAT MOZAMBIQUE AND MACHEL WERE IN FORFRONT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, EVEN AHEAD OF U.S.

12. COMMENT: MEETING WAS USEFUL IN NUMBER OF RESPECTS. IT PROVIDED CODEL PARTY AND AMBASSADOR WITH FURTHER INSIGHTS INTO MACHEL'S VIZWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION; IT HELPED CON-

VEY IDEA THAT USG IS INTERESTED IN MACHEL'S VIEWS; AND IT
HELPED REINFORCE NOTION THAT MAY BE TAKING ROOT WITH MACHEL
AND OTHERS IN GPRM THAT MOZAMBIQUE HAS NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL
FRIENDS IN U.S. AND THAT SENTIMENT FOR GREATER USG COMMITMENT
TO MAJORITY RULE IN AFRICA IS GROWING IN U.S. MOREOVER,
FACT THAT MACHEL RECEIVED CODEL PERCY PARTY AND AMBASSADOR ON
EVE OF BUSY KAUNDA VISIT MAY FACILITATE CONTACTS FOR AMBASSADOR
AND EMBOFFS WHO UNTIL NOW HAVE HAD ALMOST NO ASSOCIATION WITH
GPRM OFFICIALDOM.

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